

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 COME-00 SS-14 NSC-10 PA-03

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R 221950 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1393

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EIND

SUBJ: MEAT POLICY

REF EMBASSY A-112, BA 1213

1. SINCE ABOVE MESSAGES, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT DESPITE FACT THAT MANY MEAT PRODUCTS, INCLUDING CANNED AND COOKED BEEF AS WELL AS SOME SPECIAL CUTS, ARE INCLUDED IN DECREE LISTING "PROMOTED EXPORTS" AND PRESUMABLY ENTITLED TO NEW RATE OF EXCHANGE, IN FACT ONLY TWO MINOR ITEMS (CONCENTRATED BROTH AND ROAST BEEF IN GRAVY) ARE RECEIVING PREFERENTIAL EXCHANGE RATE. MINCOMMERCE OFFICIAL SAYS OTHER MEAT ITEMS HAVE NOT BEEN REMOVED FROM LIST OF PROMOTED PRODUCTS, ALTHOUGH EXPORT REBATES IN SOME CASES WERE REDUCED TO ZERO PERCENT.

2. REASON FOR THIS TREATMENT PRESUMABLY GOA DESIRE TO DISCOURAGE EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS IN EFFORT TO CURB RAPIDLY RISING DOMESTIC PRICES. HOWEVER, MEATPACKERS ARE CAUGHT IN SQUEEZE AS RETURNS ARE INADEQUATE TO COVER RISING COSTS OF WAGE INCREASES AND OTHER INPUTS AS WELL AS HIGHER COST OF ANIMALS.

3. ON MARCH 19, GOA ANNOUNCED ADDITIONAL MEASURES DESIGNED TO HALT RISE IN BEEF PRICES. BEEF BAN TO BE REMOVED ON RETAIL SALES, BUT RETAINED IN PUBLIC EATING HOUSES ON FORT- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NIGHT ON, FORTNIGHT OFF BASIS. TAX CREDITS ON CATTLE SALES TO BE WITHDRAWN COMPLETELY AFTER APRIL 15, TAX INSTITUTED ON APRIL 30, AND GRANTING AN EXTENSION OF CREDITS FOR WINTER PASTURING WILL BE SUSPENDED. THESE MEASURES WILL PRESUMABLY ENCOURAGE RANCHERS TO BRING CATTLE TO MARKET BEFORE THEY TAKE EFFECT. QUOTA LIMITATIONS ON SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION HAVE BEEN ABANDONED.

4. MARKET REACTED WITH IMPORTANT DECREASE IN LIVE CATTLE PRICES AS RESULT OF INCREASE IN OFFERS AND WEAK DEMAND, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE MORE LASTING EFFECTS OF MEASURES. PROSPECTS, JUDGING FROM RESULTS OF PREVIOUS GOA EFFORTS TO HALT BEEF PRICE RISE, NOT ENCOURAGING . DECON 3/22/74.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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